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CSCI 351: Introduction & Week 1 Overview

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Greetings,

I'm your instructor for CSCI 351 Systems Administration. For those who didn't notice it, here is the "blended" course description:

All course material and interaction may be done completely online via Brightspace with NO in-person requirement. All lecture and practical demonstrations will be provided via freshly pre-recorded videos that may be streamed on-demand or completely downloaded for offline playback, the later offering the most trouble-free and consistent experience. All homework will be hands-on and done remotely using the ssh network protocol utilizing purpose built course and student servers and often accompanied with pre-recorded howto videos. All quizzes, the mid-term and the final exam will be given online via Brightspace rather than in-person. Traditional in-person lecture sessions will be held as regularly scheduled as long as there is continuing demand for them not to exceed the room seating capacity with social distancing practices in place. The in-person lecture sessions will cover the same material as the online pre-recorded videos.

So, you do NOT really have to come to the in-person class if you don't want to as it isn't required. What you can do is login to Brightspace and access the course material. All lectures have screencasts, so watch them and follow along.

Here's what you'll find in Week 1:

TLCL BOOK - Introduction, A little information about The Linux Command Line book. Chapter 1, What is the Shell? Commands covered include date, cal, df, free, and exit. Chapter 2 - Navigation, Commands covered include pwd, cd, and ls.

TUESDAY - *Course Introduction* - I cover the Course Syllabus and go over the course layout, what topics are covered, etc. I also provide a PDF calendar that shows when each topic will be covered, and when the mid-term and final will be given. You'll learn about the course server and your student VMs which you can access via SSH.

TUESDAY - *History: Unix, Free Software and Linux* - This will be the only lecture dedicated specifically to history. I believe I mistakenly say that CentOS stands for Community Operating System but I left out the "ent" part which is Enterprise... Community Enterprise OS. Enjoy.

THURSDAY - *What is a Linux Distribution?* If you didn't know what a Linux distribution is, you're going to learn. What are the longest lasting Linux distributions that most others derive from?

THURSDAY - *What is a System Administrator?* Just in case it wasn't clear I go over some of the various types there are and provide some tips and tricks I've learned over the years.

BONUS MATERIAL

1) The Daemon, the GNU, and the Penguin (PDF) - a free book detailing the history of BSD, GNU and Linux... to supplement the History lecture for anyone who wants more details.

2) Video: *Revolution OS* - a 90 minute documentary that has interviews with all of the insiders who helped create Free Software and Linux.

ALSO: Be sure and check out the **GENERAL RESOURCES** section. Of particular interest is **How to access the Course Server and your Student VM** which includes a screencast. While you don't need to login to the course server nor your student VM to do homework for a while yet, give it a try and make sure you don't have any issues. Please feel free to contact me if you have trouble logging in.

Questions, comments or suggestions?

TYL,

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